**Vikings Lesson Plan Timeline**

750

* Swedish Vikings head east towards Lake Ladoga, in modern-day Russia.

750

* The Swedish market town of Birka was founded. Birka would become a major trading center--archaeologists have found pieces of silk and embroidery from places as far away as the Middle East and China.

770

* The town of Hedeby was likely founded around this time and became a major Danish Viking trading center.

793

* The raid on Lindisfarne is considered the beginning of the Viking Age. Lindisfarne is a tidal island off of the northeast coast of England. It is an important holy site for English Christians. The Viking raid here took advantage of wealth kept at the Lindisfarne monastery.

825

* Vikings settle the Faroe Islands, a mountainous chain of islands about 200 miles off the coast of Scotland, about halfway between Norway and Iceland.

839

* Swedish Vikings reach the Byzantine Capital, Constantinople, today known as Istanbul. Constantinople was one of the largest and wealthiest cities at the time. By traveling down the Russian rivers to Constantinople and beyond, Swedish Vikings traded directly with the Byzantines and with the Abbasid Caliphate, based in Baghdad.

840

* Arab records from the Abbasid Caliphate record that Scandinavians bring their goods overland to Baghdad from the Caspian Sea.

841

* Vikings settled in Dyflin around 841--this Viking base would become Dublin, the modern day capital of Ireland. Dublin remained largely under Viking control until the 1100s.

845

* Hamburg and Paris both sacked by the Vikings, possibly by the legendary Ragnar Lothbrok.

859

* Bjorn Ironside was the son of Ragnar Lothbrok, the legendary Viking hero. Bjorn is said to have led a raid in the Mediterranean, attacking cities in Italy, Spain, and North Africa.

862

* The Rus’ ruler Rurik becomes the ruler of Novgorod, a fort built near the Volkhov River in modern-day Russia. Novgorod became an important capital of the Rus’ empire.

865

* The Danish Great Army aimed to occupy and conquer all four kingdoms in England: East Anglia, Northumbria, Mercia, and Wessex. Led by leaders like Ivar the Boneless and Bjorn Ironside, the great army captured York, one of the largest cities in England. The army’s successes led to the creation of the Danelaw, a part of England ruled by Danes.

870

* Viking explorers travel to Iceland and begin to settle the island. Viking settlers came from Norway, Sweden, and Denmark to claim the good farming land. By 930 CE, most of the good grazing land has already been claimed.

882

* Rurik’s successor, Oleg, conquers Kiev and unites Kiev and Novgorod to create the Kievan Rus’ state.

911

* The Viking warrior Rollo became the first ruler of Normandy, a region in northern France. The King of France, Charles the Simple, gave Rollo land in return for protecting France from other Vikings. Normandy takes its name from the Vikings, or Northmen, who lived and settled there.

965

* Harald Bluetooth is credited with uniting the Danes into the kingdom of Denmark. He is also responsible for making Denmark a Christian kingdom.

980

* The Varangian guard is formed at the capital of the Byzantine Empire, Constantiople. The guard served as personal bodyguards to the Byzantine Emperor, and is almost entirely made up of Swedes, Danes, and Norwegians.

986

* Erik the Red was not the first Viking to find Greenland, but he was the first Viking to settle there. Vikings settled and lived in Greenland until 1490, when the climate became too harsh for the settlements to continue. Erik the Red’s estate in Greenland is called Brattahlid.

1000

* Around 1000 CE Leif Eriksson (son of Erik the Red) set out from the settlement in Greenland to investigate land to the west. Leif’s voyage led him to modern-day Baffin Island (Helluland), Labrador (Markland), and Newfoundland (Vinland) in Canada. After Leif’s voyage, other Vikings set out to permanently settle in Vinland. The only Viking site found in Canada is L’Anse aux Meadows, which was excavated by archaeologists in the 1960s.

1016

* In 1016, the Danish King Cnut conquered England and eventually united England, Denmark, and Norway into the North Sea Empire. Cnut was the grandson of Harald Bluetooth.

1066

* The Battle of Stamford Bridge is traditionally considered the end of the Viking Age, even though Viking battles did continue afterwards. The Norwegian King Harald Hardrada attempted to conquer England and was defeated by the English King Harold Godwinson. Harald Hardrada had spent 15 years as a military commander of the Varangian Guard before becoming the King of Norway. 3 weeks after the Battle of Stamford Bridge, Harold Godwinson was defeated in England by Duke William of Normandy, which started the Norman conquest of England.